

# Newsbytes

The First Watch

April 20, 2016

No. 768

Since 2001

Newzbytes is a ministry of Calvary Chapel of Appleton

[www.ccapleton.org](http://www.ccapleton.org)

---

“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

---

....aaaand the world marches on to judgment via hatred of Israel....MD

## Connecting the Dots: UN Resolution on Israeli Settlements and Passover 2016

breakingisraelnews.com Laura Densmore April 17, 2016

“And they saw him afar off, and before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him.” Genesis 37:18 (The Israel Bible™)

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has hatched a plan.

He is going to New York City April 21-23 to be present for a high level signing ceremony on a climate change agreement. While he is there, he has another highly charged document that he plans to pull out of his pocket and bring forward to the UN Security Council for their consideration and for a vote.

What is that document?

It is a UN Security Council draft resolution on Israeli settlements. The text of this draft, dated 3/30/16, is now published online and the text of the resolution has been made public. The draft resolution declares the following:

Paragraph#2 “Reiterates its demand that Israel, the occupying power immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem and that it fully respect all its legal obligations in this regard.

Paragraph #5 The UN draft also states this: “calls on all parties in the interest of peace and security, to exert collective efforts to launch credible negotiations on all final status issues in the Middle East peace process according to its agreed terms of reference and within the time frame specified by the Quartet [of Mideast peacemakers] in its statement of 21 September 2010.”

What does the statement of Sept 21, 2010 say? That all final status terms for Palestinian land and boundaries would be settled within ONE year. So, if this Israel Settlements Resolution gets voted on and passed through the UN Security Council during Passover of 2016, that would set a timeline out to Passover, April 2017 for “final status” of land and defined boundaries for a Palestinian state.

I don't think Abbas was alone in hatching his plan.

I want to run a scenario or a hypothesis by you. It is quite possible that a backroom deal may have been cut between Obama and the Palestinians. There may be a premeditated plan in place, happening as a process, in stages and steps, and it is in progress now.

Here is a possible scenario that could be unfolding even now.

Obama wants the Palestinians to come back to the negotiating table to discuss a two state solution.

The Palestinians have refused to come back to the negotiating table. Obama wants the Palestinians to come and participate in the Peace conference this summer. How does he get them to come?

To entice them back to the table, here is what Obama might be doing...kind of like throwing a piece of fresh raw meat out on the table so that the alligator will come to the negotiating table. The draft UN resolution on Israeli settlements is the "raw meat" to get the alligator (the Palestinians) to come to the negotiating table (i.e. get the Palestinians to come to the Peace conference this summer).

Here is what the deal might be in a nutshell: Pass this Israeli settlements resolution through the UN Security Council, the Palestinians will be happy and then they will agree to come to the Peace conference this summer to talk about a two state solution.

Step 1: The Bait. To entice the Palestinians to come back to the table and participate in the Summer Peace Conference that France is hosting, Obama is enticing them to participate by getting the UN resolution on Israeli settlements passed through the UN Security Council. This is the Palestinians' "pre-conditions" put into writing and then "legislated" through the UN.

Step 2: The Vote. Abbas brings this draft settlement resolution to the UN Security council in New York on April 21-23 (Passover weekend). They vote on it, the US does NOT veto it, and the resolution passes.

Step 3: The Table of Negotiations. A summer peace conference hosted by France is scheduled/planned. The Palestinians participate in the summer peace conference, Israel may or may not participate/attend. No agreement comes forth. This becomes like set up or a trap set against Israel. This is Obama's "cover" for what he will do next.

Step 4: Obama's Cover to Blame Israel. Obama will then be able to say, "Israel is the problem, Israel won't come to the table, or if they do come, they won't agree to these terms/conditions. We have tried everything, we have tried direct negotiations, they have failed. It's all Israel's fault. We need a solution now, so now are going to bring it to the UN Security Council and just "legislate" a Palestinian state solution through that body.

Step 5: Palestinian State declared Through UN Security Council: The UN Security Council does a vote, possibly between November 2016 and January 2017, during Obama's final months as President. The Resolution declares a full member Palestinian state. The UN-given power to "implement" the deal, by force, if necessary. Will we see UN troops coming down from the north and forcibly evicting 600,000 Jews out of biblical Judea and Samaria (the West Bank or Green zone)? Time will tell.

How does this UN Resolution on Israeli Settlements relate Passover of 2016? Let's connect the dots.

Passover is a "threshold" covenant. The Hebrews were instructed to "blot out" the names of the Egyptian gods that may have been inscribed on their door posts. Those names were blotted out and the power of those gods cancelled out with the smearing of lamb's blood on the doorframe. The Hebrews went into their homes that night as slaves, but in the morning when they woke up and stepped through the blood smeared doorways, a free nation was born.

The God of Israel has His people coming to the table on Passover to be in covenant with Him, remembering back to when the first Passover happened (Exodus 12).

Meanwhile, Satan has his counterfeit "anti-covenant" plan and strategy unfolding. The New World Order power brokers are carrying out this dark plan, with an "anti-covenant" measure being brought forward: the UN Draft Israeli Settlement Resolution.

The "anti-covenant" deal is this: Abbas is bringing the Israel Settlements Resolution to the UN Security Council in New York. When is he going to bring it to the UN Security Council? Not just on any random day, but on Passover weekend, April 22nd: Here I quote from The Times of Israel article:

Israeli daily Haaretz, which first reported on the resolution, said the Palestinians want the Security Council to vote when PA President Mahmoud Abbas is in New York on April 22 for a high-level signing ceremony for the landmark climate agreement reached in Paris in December.

Time will tell whether the scenario listed above plays out. If the US vetoes the Israeli settlements resolution, or if the UN resolution gets shelved, then the scenario was incorrect, GAME OVER.

Will the US veto the resolution? In the news we have this report that just came out: Report: US to abstain in PA-sponsored anti-Israel UN resolution.

The Obama administration is telling us in advance how they intend to vote on the UN Israeli Settlements resolution...they plan to abstain. What does that mean? There are 15 votes in the UN, but only 5 with veto power. The US has veto power but they are saying they will not veto the resolution, they will abstain.

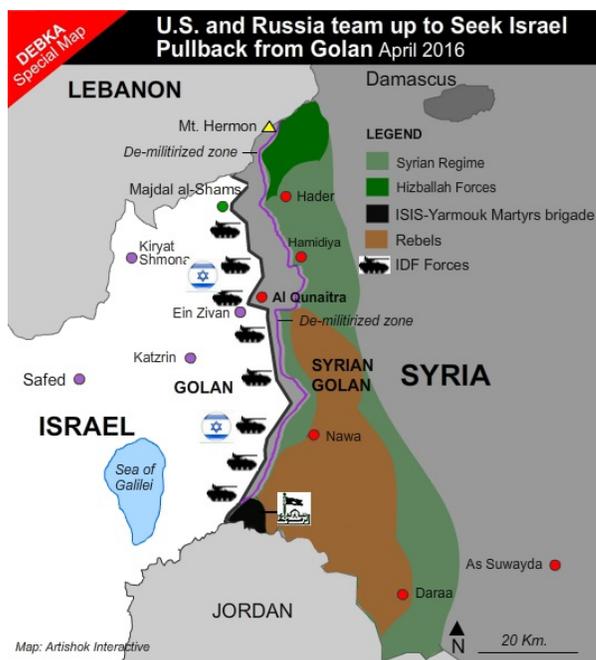
What will very likely happen? The Resolution, if brought to the UN Security Council on Passover weekend, will very likely PASS.

This resolution declares the following:

“Reaffirming that all Israeli settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem are illegal and constitute a major obstacle to the achievement of peace on the basis of the two state solution.”

## Netanyahu to battle Obama, Putin over the Golan

debka.com



The Israeli cabinet holds its weekly session Sunday April 17, on the Golan. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will visit Moscow on Thursday, April 21 to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin and to launch the most important battle of his political career, and one of Israel's most decisive contests of the last 10 years: the battle over the future of the Golan Heights.

debkafile's intelligence sources and its sources in Moscow report exclusively that Israel's top political leaders and military commanders were stunned and shocked last weekend when they found out that US President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin have agreed to support the return of the Golan to Syria. The two presidents gave their top diplomats, Secretary of State John Kerry and Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, the green light to include such a clause in a proposal being drafted at the Geneva conference on ending the Syrian civil war.

Israel captured the Golan from the Syrian army 49 years ago, during the Six-Day War in 1967 after the Syrian army invaded Israel.

In 1981, during the tenure of then Prime Minister Menachem Begin, Israel passed a law defining the Golan as a territory under Israeli sovereignty. However, it did not state that the area belongs to Israel. While Israel was preparing for a diplomatic battle over the future of Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, Obama and Putin decided to deal a diplomatic blow to Israel and Netanyahu's government on an unexpected issue, the Golan.

It is part of an endeavor by the two powers to use their diplomatic and military cooperation regarding Syria to impose agreements on neighboring countries, such as Israel, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Jordan. For example, Washington and Moscow are trying to impose an agreement regarding the granting of independence to Syrian Kurds, despite Ankara's adamant opposition. The two presidents are also pressuring Riyadh and Amman to accept the continuation of Syrian President Bashar Assad's rule, at least for the immediate future.

debkafile's sources report that just like the other diplomatic or military steps initiated by Obama and Putin in Syria, such as those for Assad's eventual removal from power, the two powers see a resolution of the Golan issue as a gradual process that may take a long time, perhaps even years. But as far as they are concerned, Israel will have to withdraw from the Golan at the end of that process.

It should be noted that Prime Minister Netanyahu is not traveling to Washington to discuss the Golan issue with Obama. The frequent trips by the prime minister, senior officials and top IDF brass to Moscow in recent months show where the winds are blowing in the Middle East.

However, Moscow is not Washington, and Israel has no lobby in the Russian capital defending its interests. It should be made very clear that the frequent trips by senior Israeli officials to Moscow have not created an Israeli policy that can influence Putin or other senior members of the Russian leadership. Putin has made occasional concessions to Israel on matters of minimal strategic importance, but on diplomatic and military steps regarding Syria and Iran he has shown little consideration of Jerusalem's stance.

It should also be noted that there has been no basis for the enthusiasm over the Russian intervention in Syria shown by Netanyahu, Israeli ministers and senior IDF officers.

All of the calls by a number of Russia experts, mainly those of debkafile, for extreme caution in ties with Putin have fallen on deaf ears among the political leadership in Jerusalem and the IDF command in Tel Aviv.

Amid these developments, three regional actors are very pleased by Washington and Moscow's agreement to demand Israeli withdrawal from the Golan: Syrian President Assad, the Iranian leadership in Tehran and Hizballah leader Hassan Nasrallah. Now, they do not need to risk a military confrontation with Israel over the Golan because Obama and Putin have essentially agreed to do the dirty work for them.

## Russian and Iranian Defense Ministers to meet in Moscow next week, talks to center on additional arms sales

[beholdisraelnews.wordpress.com](http://beholdisraelnews.wordpress.com)

*Following Soleimani visit with Putin and Shoigu, Iranian Defense Minister to visit Moscow next week; Talks for arms sales of jets and tanks underway*

Iran's Defense Minister Hossein Dehghan will meet with Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, the meeting reportedly to take place next week in Moscow and to focus on additional arms sales of Russian Sukhoi Su-30 fighter jets and T-90 tanks.

The Russian TASS News Agency confirmed the scheduled meeting stating on Friday "The Iranian minister will have a meeting with Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu." Iran's Ambassador to Russia, Mehdi Sana, stated that "Currently the bilateral relationship is on the rise.... Iran welcomes its further development and strengthening... this is demonstrated by regular meetings of foreign ministers, who have recently met 10 times."

The announcement of the meeting between the defense officials comes just days after the head of the al-Quds Force of Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps, Qassem Soleimani, visited Moscow. Reports confirming that Soleimani had once again violated a travel ban by the United Nations Security Council were released over the weekend, Reuter's citing a "senior Iranian security official" stating "General Soleimani traveled to Moscow last night to discuss issues including the delivery of S-300s and further military cooperation." The ban was placed in 2007 on high-ranking Iranian military officials due to Iran's nuclear program, specifically its ballistic missile program.

Talks for sales of Russian jets have been under way for over a month as Russia continues to be the main military supplier to the Islamic Republic. Even before the lift of sanction on Iran during the creation of the nuclear deal with world powers, Russia and Iran renegotiated a previously frozen arms sale of S-300 missile defense system.

Last week Iran confirmed the delivery of the first shipment of the S-300 air defense missile system to Iran, the complete system to be delivered by mid-2016.

...and now from our *"this defies any sort of logic on any level" file:*

## UNESCO Renames Western Wall "Al-Buraq Plaza"

By Adam Eliyahu Berkowitz April 17, 2016

"Thus saith the LORD: I return unto Tzion and will dwell in the midst of Yerushalayim; and Yerushalayim shall be called the city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain."  
Zechariah 8:3 (The Israel Bible™)

On Friday, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) Executive Board in Paris adopted a resolution erasing Israel's ties to the Temple Mount and the Western Wall.

The UNESCO resolution referred to the Temple Mount area solely as the Al-Aqsa Mosque or Al-Haram Al Sharif, ignoring the Jewish claim to the site.

The resolution called Israel "the occupying power" and the Western Wall as Al-Buraq Plaza. It demanded that Israel not restrict Muslim access to the Temple Mount, condemning Israel for "illegal measures against the freedom of worship" at the "Muslim holy site of worship". It demanded a return to the "status quo". The status quo since Israel conquered the Temple Mount in 1967 forbids non-Muslim prayer on the Temple Mount and has remained unchanged.

Blaming "Israel aggression" for the violence at the site, it had no mention of the role of Muslim rioters. It also condemned the Israel's plans to establish an egalitarian, non-Orthodox prayer section by Robinson's Arch.

It accused Israel of "planting Jewish fake graves in other spaces of the Muslim cemeteries" located on Waqf property east and south of the Temple Mount, and of "the continued conversion of many Islamic and Byzantine remains into the so-called Jewish ritual baths or into Jewish prayer places."

It referred to Hebron and Bethlehem as solely "Palestinian sites".

Authorized by the executive board's Programme and External Relations Commission, the resolution was submitted by Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, and Sudan. The 58-member board approved the resolution with 33 votes in favor, six against and 17 abstentions. Two countries, Ghana and Turkmenistan were absent all together. Estonia, Germany, Lithuania, Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the US voted against the resolution. France, Spain, Slovenia, Sweden, Russia and Slovenia were among those countries that supported the resolution. Israeli ambassador to UNESCO, Carmel Shama, released a statement saying, "Even if UNESCO passes dozens of resolutions, and decides to continue passing thousands more, Jerusalem will always remain as part of the capital of Israel and the Jewish people." Shama added, "As you continue on this path of incitement, lies and terror you will be sending UNESCO down a path towards irrelevance."

"This is yet another absurd UN decision," Netanyahu said Saturday. "UNESCO ignores the unique historic connection of Judaism to the Temple Mount, where the two temples stood for a thousand years and to which every Jew in the world has prayed for thousands of years. The UN is rewriting a basic part of human history and has again proven that there is no low to which it will not stoop."

<http://www.breakingisraelnews.com/65788/unesco-names-western-wall-al-buraq-plaza/#7hJ3Lp93Jx2rIQOL.99>

## Why is the planet being struck by so many large earthquakes?

Posted on April 17, 2016 by The Extinction Protocol USGS

According to the USGS, the number of large magnitude earthquakes striking the planet doubled in 2014. The USGS is quite certain about the data but it is uncertain about the cause.

April 2016 – GEOLOGY – Seismic tension continues to mount in the volatile region of the planet known as the Ring of Fire, where more than 90% of the world's earthquakes occur, and more than 81% of the

largest magnitude earthquakes occur. The extraordinary and precipitous rise in the number of large magnitude earthquakes is both astounding and alarming. On average, only about fifteen 7+ magnitude earthquakes strike the planet each year. We've had 2 such earthquake in less than 72 hours.

This has continued to baffle many of the world's leading geologists, who still attest the rise in the number of large earthquakes is merely a random natural occurrence. For instance, the number of large earthquakes doubled in 2014. However, here's what scientists had to say about it: "If you think there have been more earthquakes than usual this year, you're right. A new study finds there were more than twice as many big earthquakes in the first quarter of 2014 as compared with the average since 1979.

"We have recently experienced a period that has had one of the highest rates of great earthquakes ever recorded," said lead study author Tom Parsons, a research geophysicist with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in Menlo Park, California. But even though the global earthquake rate is on the rise, the number of quakes can still be explained by random chance, said Parsons and co-author Eric Geist, also a USGS researcher. Their findings were published online June 21 in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*. 1

The average rate of big earthquakes — those larger than magnitude 7 — has been 10 per year since 1979, the study reports. That rate rose to 12.5 per year starting in 1992, and then jumped to 16.7 per year starting in 2010 — a 65 percent increase compared to the rate since 1979. This increase accelerated in the first three months of 2014 to more than double the average since 1979, the researchers went on to report.

Why is our planet having so many big earthquakes? It's because big geological processes are driving the reactive seismic forces that create earthquakes along faults, trenches, and the planet's many subduction zones. We don't live on a perfect sphere. We live on a planet that more resembles a cracked egg. Cracked and badly fractured, partially due to its geology but mainly due to the intense heat rumbling within its interior (about 6,000 C and 10,800 F) and the geological dissipative features that try to regulate that heat and resulting kinetic energy. These geologic features include mantle plumes, faults, tectonic plates, submarine vents, and volcanic systems.

In the last 24 hours, moderate earthquakes have struck regions in the far Pacific like Fiji and Tonga, while smaller earthquakes have rattled portions of Japan, Ecuador, Guatemala, El Salvador, Chile, Alaska, California, Indonesia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, the Adriatic Sea, the Strait of Gibraltar, the Hawaiian Islands, and Greece. Ecuador was struck with a 7.8 magnitude earthquake. Ecuador's antipodal point is the Sumatra region of Indonesia – which was struck with 5.0, 4.8, and 4.5 magnitude earthquakes in the last 24 hours. You might say the entire planet is now reeling from earthquakes from one end to the other. Where will the next big earthquake strike or how long will this current seismic episode last is anybody's guess? About the only thing we can be certain of is there will be many more such events and they will increase in both severity and intensity. –Alvin Conway, *The Extinction Protocol*

## Thinking Through Things to Come

By Gene Lawley

One of the big questions in the back of people's minds is, "If Jesus is going to come, why hasn't He?" In Peter's second epistle, after he reminds us that the holy prophets and he and the other Apostles have spoken of these things, he writes this:

"...Knowing this first, that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation'" (2 Peter 3:3-4).

Scoffers would speak of this in derision and denial, but it is not an unreasonable question for the honest inquirer. We are encouraged to search the Scriptures for the hidden treasures that are there. And God says to all, "And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13).

The intensity of that position God takes on, opening Himself up to mankind, is magnified in how Jesus cautioned His disciples and later followers: "Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces" (Matthew 7:6). Sincere seekers for truth are not snuffed out and shuffled to the sideline, as Jesus' attitude in Isaiah 42:3 and Matthew 12:20 assures us:

"A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth."

Surely thoughtful prophecy students have recognized that if Jesus had come in A.D. 1325, for example, what would have happened to the promises God had made which had not yet come to pass? A prime example of that is the promise given to Israel that while they had been scattered among the nations of the world, they would one day be restored to their promised land. That did not happen until May 14, 1948.

Once that event happened, end time events began to fall into place, and the subject of prophecy began to gain new intensity. Of course, this seeming delay in the coming again of Jesus fits in real well for the doctrine of the Preterists who maintain that the end-time prophecies were fulfilled in the first century, at the crucifixion of Jesus and the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in A.D. 70. (Some have looked upon those positions and observed that "denial" is not a river in Egypt in this case.)

The springboard Scripture seems to be Luke 21:28, where Jesus declares this: "Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

And He goes right into what is called the "parable of the fig tree" that describes new life and a new era:

"Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near" (Luke 21:29-31).

The connecting phrases are, in v. 28, "your redemption draws near," and in vv. 29-31, "know that the kingdom of God is near." Israel is called "God's timepiece" in spite of the continuous onslaught against that small nation as being of no consequence in world matters. But without question it is the focal point of international attention, even as a subtle presence when problems of radical Islamic terrorism erupt in any of the Middle Eastern nations.

An incident not yet having occurred is spoken of in Daniel 9:25-27, a prophecy that touches on the place of the "fig tree" in future events:

"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.

"And after the sixty-two weeks, Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined.

"Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week, but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate."

### **Now let's think through these three verses:**

- The count for the seventy weeks in Daniel's prophecy began with the commandment to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem in the times of Ezra and Nehemiah;
- It would be a total of 69 weeks of years until the Messiah would come, the first Advent of Christ. A meticulous tracking of this time, in terms of years, is done by a British researcher, Sir Robert Anderson. [1]
- The Messiah would be "cut off," that is, crucified for the sins of mankind, not for Himself.
- Then, the people from whom a later "prince" would arise, would conquer the city of Jerusalem and destroy it and its sanctuary (temple).
- This was in A.D. 70 when the Roman legions under Titus stormed the city, destroying it and the temple. This reference and that of Jesus in Matthew 24:1-2 do not elaborate on any kind of spiritual blasphemy by Titus

and the Romans. Titus did not take a position of deity in the temple, proclaiming himself as God. Jesus described how that glitter of gold between the stones of the temple buildings lured the Romans to take it apart, stone by stone, just as Jesus predicted.

- From A.D. 70 until A.D. 136 the Jews resisted a flood of warring legions intent on fulfilling, though without awareness, God's promise to scatter the Jews throughout the whole earth.
- The resulting desolation lasted some eighteen hundred years, until May 14, 1948, when Israel again reclaimed its kingdom and its deserts began to bloom like a rose;
- Yet to come about is the content of v. 27, where "he" of the people who destroyed the city and the sanctuary will confirm a covenant with many, apparently for Israel's benefit, for a period of seven years—one week, to make up that total of 70 weeks of years in Daniel's vision.
- Why is it for Israel? Half way through the week—three and one-half years—that "prince" will void the agreement and enter the temple and declare himself God, thus bringing abomination into the holy place.
- This means that in that first half of the week a new temple will have been constructed and religious services will have been carried out by the Jews therein (Revelation 11:1-2).

None of this latter part has come to pass, but preparations for temple service have been extensive and pinpointing the exact location of the new temple is being refined.

The keynote issue is the confirmation of a covenant that Daniel foresaw. The recent Paris Agreement on Climate Change where 196 or so nations came together in an agreement may illustrate how this covenant will come about, that the United Nations will be the "many" who will join that rising personage who aspires to be king of the world and settle the dust of Israeli-Islamic confirmation for at least seven years.

Mentally lay this seven-year period down beside the seven years of "the time of Jacob's trouble" (Jeremiah 30:7) and figure out where the halfway point is in Revelation 6 to 19. The continuity from the covenant confirmation to the man on the white horse riding onstage with a bow but no arrows, yet "conquering and to conquer" is a natural follow-up for that confirmation (Revelation 6).

It looks like the mid-point is at the beginning of chapter 13, and in chapter 17 we see where that "prince" of Roman heritage and also the confirmer of the covenant assumes total control and declares himself God as the eighth head of the beast.

However, other things must happen before that point in time. Paul writes of that lawless one assuming the place of God in the temple—which has not been rebuilt—and speaks of believers being taken out of the way before that desecration of the temple can occur. See 2 Thessalonians 2. Much more detail of that mysterious transformation is given in 1 Thessalonians 4:1- to 5:3, however, as well as 1 Corinthians 15:50-53.

A possible link to the confirmation of a covenant is in 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3 where Paul writes this:

"For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, 'Peace and safety!' then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape."

Who will, most likely, cry out "Peace and safety!" when a peace covenant is made that seems to assure them freedom to relax their security alertness and war-minded existence, to rebuild their temple and freely worship as they have not done in centuries? The Jews of Israel, of course.

It is not clear that that cry is uttered in reference to that covenant, but if it is, then the remaining question is, when is it uttered—at the announcement of an agreement to be signed or when the actual signing takes place?

But it is clear that when that cry is made, it sparks an action that begins the Day of the Lord, the beginning of those days of judgment in the seven years of the Tribulation period. It will be quietly, without fanfare, just as a thief appears in the night. At that moment, the One who comes will take away what He has come for—those who are His purchased possession—and sudden destruction will immediately begin. The Rapture will have occurred!

Things to come will do so at God's appointed times; therefore, Jesus says, "watch, for you do not know at what hour your Lord may come."